



**Trails Commission Meeting
MINUTES — November 30, 2005
Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center**

TRAILS COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Gary Smith; Co-Chair Barnfather; Commissioners Bechmann, McDonald, Eades, Scott and Youth Advocate, Pfaff.

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Commissioner Chenault

CITY STAFF: Tim Cox, Manager of Parks Planning; Linda Gorremans, Park Planner; Sarah Stiteler and Jeff Churchill, Planners - Planning Dept. and Sharon Sato, Recording Secretary.

AUDIENCE: 0

Note: Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Trails Commission Chair Gary Smith called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Trails Commission at 7:01 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC).

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion for approval of October 26, 2005 RTC minutes with the following corrections:

Bechmann: Page 4 (end of second paragraph) - delete "opportunity to".

Smith: Page 4, correction to spelling of "impetus".

Motion to approve minutes as corrected by: Commissioner Eades

Second by: Commissioner Bechmann

Motion carried: Unanimous 6-0

III. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE/HANDOUTS

A. Wayfinding background information - previously handed out in February 2005.

IV. DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

A. Wayfinding Update - Jeff Churchill

Churchill reported on updates on Wayfinding in downtown Redmond, which includes directional signs on roads and trails; kiosks, other select information type centers in high traffic areas in downtown and designs for downtown gateways.

The Commission previously requested the following to be taken into consideration:

- Inclusion of Redmond-Woodinville Road and NE 90th
- Consider parks as a destination within downtown and include parks on signs.
- Staff work with the existing infrastructure and existing opportunities.
- Look at the intersection of the Bear Creek Trail and Sammamish River Trail.

Staff noted that the trail behind Bear Creek Shopping Center, which is considered a "gateway" area, will begin construction the first part of 2006.

The Wayfinding Design Manual, provides sign standards, and design alternatives for information centers and gateway, it will take approximately five months to complete.

Smith commented that Wayfinding is the best way to address signage, which focuses on the basic purpose of finding ones way easily around areas in Redmond. The design phase has been funded.

Eades added that there had been improved signage on trails - specifically Bridal Crest Trail, and inquired if this was part of the new Wayfinding project. Churchill responded that the City's vision is to have all Wayfinding materials easily accessible to other jurisdictions to collaborate in similar or like designs. Eades felt one goal of the project should be continuity, ease, and user friendly.

Bechmann stated the purpose of the Wayfinding is to give visitors opportunities to seek out different places to go and directions to get to a desired destination. He also added that Wayfinding signs are marketing signs, not commercial.

Barnfather agreed that Wayfinding sign priorities should be that they are invitational and informational with an option to show opportunities to go other places.

Scott inquired if this project was in conjunction with the other urban design activities taking place downtown - NE 83rd & 161st - he felt the width of the sidewalks in downtown were not conducive to meandering.

Eades responded that the new Transportation Master Plan will be addressing those issues.

Cox added, that in addition; the variety of project plans addressed in the City's Comprehensive Plan and Redmond Development Guide will address these issues. The RCDG has a specific section with zoning designations, addressing sidewalk, plaza - plazas on corners, Wayfinding, design criteria for tree grates, and lighting systems, etc. This will include systematic upgrades.

Bechmann noted that the State of Washington has a Downtown Revitalization Committee, this Committee meets regularly with several cities around Washington State, which Redmond is a part of.

Cox suggested that further discussion could include Gary Lee, Planner, who is the assigned City Planner for the Downtown Revitalization Plan. Churchill encouraged Trails members to direct their questions and comments to Linda Gorremans or Tim Cox.

B. Education Hill Neighborhood Plan Update (CAC) - Sarah Stiteler

Stiteler has been working with the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) - 12 members, two of which were high school students.

Recommendations have been completed and will be presented to the community at an Open House, Saturday, December 3, 2005, Horace Mann Elementary School, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, in the Commons area. The summary of recommendations of the CAC was sent out to approximately 4,800 Education Hill residents, similar to the recommendations of the North Redmond Neighborhood Plan.

Overview of recommendation (handout):

- Develop neighborhood and vision for the next 20-years - emphasis on travel opportunities including trails and maintenance of green space, as important to development, connectivity to trails and open space.
- Page 3 - Puget Power Trail - emphasis on different modes of transportation and providing the means.
- Page 6 - PRO Plan Policies - Redmond Puget Power Trail provides a linear open space recreation area (boundary between the Ed. Hill and North Redmond neighborhoods).
- Page 7 - continuation and enhancement of the trail system and importance. New trails should be developed where indicated by this plan, as well as, acknowledging the PRO Plan trails plan. Opportunities that arise through private development plan projects. Possible questions/concerns regarding year round sales of food and beverages in or near Hartman Park.
- Page 8 - NEH-11 - work with Puget Sound Energy, Park Board and Trails Commission to establish future recreation use of the trail. Trail segment ideas - opportunities for small area of parking, more identifiable and friendly access points, paving of certain areas, soft surface trail segments

accompanying paved surface and retain the natural character, more refined and cultivated/landscaped areas (currently overgrown with many invasive species - need to improve for habitat). More discussion when long-term lease discussions take place with PSE. Need clear layout to vision/strategy. The four access points, identified by the Trails Commission are within the Education Hill neighborhood. The Commission would like to further discuss the vision.

Stiteler suggested, and will look into the possibility of, funding through a grant, as a wildlife corridor or fly away, or as a park. Cox suggested improvements to the habitat, might occur, as development takes place, et. al. Bear and Evans Creek Trail construction.

Most important connections within neighborhoods for trails as recommended by the CAC:

- Page 13 - Table refers to connections, some consistent with PRO Plan and Trails Plan, opportunities to connect areas lacking connection and contingent upon development.
 1. Avondale Estates (on Trails Master Plan) - pedestrian and vehicular connection, reclaiming Valley View Trail - maintain and construct missing link) - planned
 2. East Valley Heights - on Trails Master Plan - planned
 3. Trail to Avondale - connect to Avondale and Valley View - opportunity
 4. Trail result of Perrigo Heights Development - north/south link - proposed hiking only - planned
 5. Rain Song Condo Development - Trail CAC recommendation - pedestrian only - planned (in works)
 6. Shaunessy Heights - not shown on Trails Master Plan, links Redmond El. And the Community Center north to Nike Park. No environmental concerns - pedestrian only access to paved/multi-use trail - in for development review
 7. Trail between Morman Church and City park right-of-way - removed
 8. Extension of NE 80th Street down slope to Avondale Road - not on plan
 9. Puget Power Trail - discussion on various enhancements at certain locations
 10. Redmond 74 connect to trail - from R6 area - suggested removed from list - developer funded
- Goal is to create opportunities for well connected, safe, easy accessibility, improvement of corridors and trails, by providing easements through developments or put on Trail Master Plan to make certain they are achieved.
- Parks staff would like to see native growth protection easements applied to new developments - with a public trail through site, location to be determined.

- Stiteler commended the citizens on the Committee for their continued work

C. Sammamish Valley SWOT Update - Tim Cox and Linda Gorremans

Cox briefly updated the Commission on the Sammamish Valley SWOT. Cox noted that this is following the neighborhoods modification to the Comprehensive Plan - Rose Hill, Grass Lawn, Redmond North and Education Hill.

Gorremans composed a summary of trails and future trails within the Sammamish Valley - PSE Trail, Sammamish River Trail, future Burlington Northern Santa Fe, 116th connector and 124th Street collector trail. Gorremans asked the Commission to review the list and comment on additional items that need to be identified for the list. Gorremans asked the Commission to review and give comment in the next 2-3 weeks.

Comments:

Smith added that the Sammamish River Trail opportunities should add water trails access points - Blue Trail. Water trail and access points can be seen as possible threats to vegetation in river, water quality, water level or river widening, at access points. AASHTO standards have been achieved in some areas where mitigation has occurred and within the buffer area.

Commissioners asked to add the need for additional signage (primarily on the west side of river), make sure this is added to trails summary.

These comments only relate to the PSE Trail within the Sammamish River Valley, not to SR202. Cox reiterated the definition of a backbone trail for clarification - paved, multi-use and major connector.

Opportunities:

- Make notes on visions of neighborhoods
- Future grant opportunities, habitat enhancements and landscaping
- Neighborhood requested connection - west side
- More connections

Cox asked the Board to e-mail staff with further comments.

C. Neighborhood Connections - Smith

Cox noted that Council might want additional information regarding the top ten trail priorities agreed upon between the Trails Commission and Bike Ped Committee. Council is asking for other trails connections that might not be included at the initial presentation and what projects were done recently. Cox suggested a memo stating what projects have been completed along with a full list of projects that would/could happen. Cox

added that a memo would be drafted up, sent to the Commission for their review/approval/edits for next months' meeting. After approval and refinement the memo will be finalized and sent to Council.

Gorremans has begun design on a PowerPoint presentation to that effect.

Smith suggested a stand alone memo without the Bike Ped consideration - cover letter and signature. The memo should concentrate on accomplishments in one memo and the broader list on the other. ***A memo will be drafted up within the next two weeks, e-mailed to Commissioners and finalized by staff.***

Motion by Barnfather to send a memo to Council from the Trails Commission providing a list of the Commission's accomplishments related to trail connections over the last two years.

Amended by Eades to read - "Commission and Parks staff accomplishments for 2003-2005".

Second by: Bechmann
Unanimous: 6-0

Smith, along with agreement from Tomac, agree to meet and come up with a new list, with the understanding to prioritize with cost in mind, taking practical projects.

Eades reiterated the original Council direction - "Identify and build ten new neighborhood pedestrian connections, developing sidewalks, trails and other path ways". Including affordable, doable, neighborhood buy-in and maintainable. Eades feels a response to that effect is what Council is requesting. Eades suggested a community meeting, Smith suggested a neighborhood meeting might work better for "grassroots" comments.

Tomac suggested that this be tied into the timing of the Transportation Master Plan Update - June 2006.

Cox will have staff identify, from both list projects that might be easy to accomplish (aka low hanging fruit).

Barnfather suggested categorizing the list by funding, importance, timelines, in works, in order to get everything in system. Need to be in sync with the Bike Ped Committee.

Smith suggested a sub-committee to meet within the next two months. Volunteers - Bechmann, McDonald, Eades and possibly Tomac. Smith will contact members and set up.

D. Trails Projects Reports - Gorremans

1. Evans Creek Trail - paving is complete on elevated trail, next week wooden kick rails, some planting completed. Problem with beavers flooding planting areas. Will plant Bald Cypress due to soil saturation. Some Cedar trees were lost along railroad corridor due to too much water saturation; they will be trimmed and turned into habitat trees.
2. Trail at Bear Creek Park - delayed, moving forward to bid in February with preliminary construction in March, weather dependent.
3. Bear Creek Trail at Avondale - north of Union Hill Road appraisal back on parcel and easement.
4. Trail from Farrel McWhirter to Watershed Missing Link - King County has acquired the Cunningham parcel, but is still working with PSE on the trail language on the agreement.

V. Coming Attractions

1. \$25,000 in the Parks CIP budget for the construction of a segment of soft surface trail. Cox noted that if this is successful endeavor, this will set up for CIP funding in the next biennium budget for fall 2006 to obtain more money and build more soft surface trails. No preference for soft surface trail projects has been made.

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Smith at 9:23 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Sharon Sato

Audiotapes of regular Trails Commission meetings are available at the Parks and Recreation Office at (425) 556-2311.

**THE NEXT REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING:
Wednesday, February 22, 2006
Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center
7:00 p.m.**